

Regional Intervention Coordinating Committee (RICC) Meeting
REGION I
May 18, 2006

"The purpose of the RICC is to ensure partnership of parents and regional representatives dedicated to supporting children with, or at risk of, a disability from birth to age 3, and their families."



Present were: Tim Coughlin, Jaret Cvancara, Harlan Fixen, Cheryl Saeman, Betty Omvig, Holly Snellings, Mike Ross, Dana Deegan, Maranda Phelan and Kathi Benth (Support Staff Minutes).

Minutes of the last meeting held February 16, 2006 were submitted and approved.

The agenda for this meeting was passed out.

This will be Betty's last RICC Meeting as she will be retiring the end of June, 2006.

Betty presented updated information for the Infant Development (ID) Program. Children served have remained at a fairly high count. ID is currently serving 41 children. There will be five 3 year olds transitioning out of the program this month however, there are seven referrals in pending status. Betty feels there is an adequate number of full time ID staff to handle the caseload. Tim reports Developmental Disabilities (DD) will be given a half time FTE position for DD Casemanagement if the caseload ratio for serving children gets to be 1:45. Betty states MSU has not yet advertised her position. If Betty's position is filled in-house, we will then be short one staff person and this position will then have to be advertised and filled.

Betty described the Right Track Program's Part C fund allocation versus population. Deb Balsdon indicated during the last polycom meeting that she is going to try to increase funding for Right Track statewide. The Right Track Program has been growing and has been doing very well. Rose Shafer has been very aggressive with contacting agencies and she has been doing a lot of Right Track screenings. Funding for the Right Track program will be changing and will be based on region population and percentage of children under 3 years of age. There is a concern regarding the fact that Region I has the lowest population. Betty guesses our funding will be reduced by at least half of what we are now receiving.

Tim reported a "Baby PAR" will be "born" July 1, 2006. Deb Balsdon has acquired an instrument from Oregon, which will replace the current PAR being done for children through 2 years of age. Information will be shared with Oregon regarding this instrument as they are collecting data regarding the effectiveness of this instrument.

At the last meeting a brochure was passed out regarding the Family Connections Conference. There is funding available for parents to attend this conference if they have a child under age 3 receiving services.

Dana Deegan provided an update of services MHA Nation Education Department provides in the New Town area. Some of these services include: reservation-wide family fun nights, mass screenings (held yearly) including speech, hearing, physicals, etc. for birth to age 5 at Ft. Berthold and a WIC clinic traveling office. MHA Nation will soon have 4 technicians serving approximately 450 individuals.

Cheryl Saeman reported Head Start could take children who are 3 years old if they have an IEP. A new rating scale has been developed for accepting children. Cheryl extended appreciation to everyone who encourage parents to enroll their children in Head Start.

The next RICC meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.